THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, May 18, 1807.

ANECDOTES *of the* GRAND SIGNIOR, SELIM III.

THE commencement of a new reign frequently resembles the morning's dawn, which deceitfully announces the brilliant appearance of the orb of day, but is actually the precursor of thickening clouds and boisterous tempests. This simile is not inapplicable to the Sultan Selim III. Gibandari, the present ruler of the once formidable Ottoman empire. He is the son of the Emperor Mustapha III. distinguished by the surname of *the glorious*, and nephew to the last Turkish monarch, Abdul Hamid, who died very suddenly on the 7th of April, 1789, in the 64th year of his age, after taking a cup of *indigestible coffee*, leaving two male heirs, Sultan Mustapha and Sultan Mahmud. Conformably with the Turkish system of policy, which, to obviate the inconveniencies liable to result from the government of a minor, calls to the throne the oldest prince of the reigning family, Selim, who had been destined by his uncle for his successor, was, on the 13th of April, 1789, solemnly begirt with the hattechan, or sword of Mahomet, in the mosque of Eyoub, as the 27th monarch of the race of Osman.

Never did any sultan manifest greater ardour and impetuosity, or a more warlike spirit, than Selim III. on his accession to the throne. He was then only in his 28th year, being born on the 24th of December, 1761, so that age cannot even yet be supposed to have extinguished his energy. His vivacity was probably nothing more than illusion, a mere disguise assumed from motives of prudence, because at that time, the people, as well as the highest personages at Constantinople, clamoured for the most vigorous prosecution of the war; and it

was not unknown, that the pacific disposition of Abdul Hamid had contributed to his sudden death.

The grandees of the empire concealed their sentiments in silent admiration; while the people loudly congratulated themselves on the accession of such a spirited sovereign, who manifested, in all his actions, so decided an inclination for the continuance of the war. When some one represented to him the state of the empire, and the dangers with which it was menaced, especially as France and Spain might possibly be induced to side with the two imperial courts, he listened with attention to what he had to say, and at length replied: "It is, nevertheless, my pleasure, to prosecute the war;" and issued the most positive orders to this effect.

In the very first night of his reign, Selim fixed himself firmly on the throne, and in the affections of the people. A fire broke out in the arsenal. Selim resolved to repair to the spot, according to the custom of the sultans, that he might the more speedily check, by his orders, the progress of the flames. He was told, that it was unusual for the sultans to appear in public, previous to their solemn inauguration, which consists in being girt with the sword of Mahomet. Selim's answer was accompanied with a look of asperity, and he gave orders to prepare immediately for his departure from the seraglio. The people, among whom he ordered money to be distributed, to encourage them to exert themselves in extinguishing the conflagration, accompanied him on his return to the seraglio, with the loudest acclamations; so that no person durst hazard any attempt against Selim, which otherwise might probably have been the case. The ceremony of girding on the sword had usually been accompanied with great musical entertainments and dancing. Selim would not celebrate it with any festivities of that kind, but gave a tournament, which he thought better suited to the circumstances of the times.

Though fortune was far from smiling on Selim's arms, yet he resolved not to lay them down. In 1791, when the empress-mother, or Sultana Valide, for whom he entertained the highest veneration, would not desist, in spite of his admonitions not to intermeddle with state affairs, from importuning him to make peace with Russia, he at length lost all patience, and removed his so peaceably-disposed mother for a time from his palace, to the old seraglio, where the women of the deceased monarch are usually kept. Nevertheless, a peace took place, the same year with the Empress Catharine II. after the treaty concluded at Szistowe, on the 4th of August, had reconciled Austria and the Porte. In August, 1791, preliminaries of peace were signed at Petersburgh, and were succeeded by the definitive treaty, ratified on the 29th of December, at the congress of Jassy.

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Since that period, Selim III. has lived in relations of amity with his formidable north-eastern neighbour; and, seven years afterwards, when France attempted to ravish Egypt from his sceptre, these were still more closely cemented, by means of a defensive alliance between Russia and the Porte. The political storms which shook the Turkish empire, at the conclusion of the 18th, and the beginning of the 19th century, demanded a skilful hand to guide the helm of the state. Internal energy was wanting to preserve the shattered vessel. With all the resources which the Porte has at its disposal, it has not even been able to quell the insurrections of rebellious pachas, and to secure the internal tranquillity of the empire against the numerous hordes of banditti, which overrun its provinces. During the late war with France, Selim was involved in continual solicitude, which crippled the execution of every decisive measure. Hence Egypt, though cleared of foreign enemies, remained in a state of insurrection; the audacious Paswan Oglu defied him at Widdin, and the bold Czerny George, successfully asserted the claims of the Servian insurgents, against the troops of the grand signior.

At such a crisis as the present, irresolution is the most dangerous quality of a sovereign, especially at Constantinople. The grandees about the person of Selim III. soon perceived that the energy he at first manifested, and of which even ordinary men are susceptible, when circumstances inspire them with enthusiasm, was foreign to the character of the sultan, and they turned the discovery to their advantage. Affairs soon went at Selim's court, as they had done at that of the weak and good-natured Abdul Hamid. New intrigues, new changes of ministry, new movements of parties, under foreign influence, new systems, and an everlasting fluctuation of principles in the divan!

Selim Gihandari is more entitled to respect as a private man than as a sovereign; his ideas are more enlightened and more free from prejudice than those of his predecessors; and his sentiments are tolerant and accommodated to the present times. He is even reported to possess a happy talent at poetical composition in the Arabic language. The Turks, however, have greater need of a man of strong mind, than of a *bel-esprit*, to conduct their affairs. Selim is indeed charged with being very fond of money, and with hoarding it more than any of his predecessors; but, on the other hand, he displays great generosity in the distribution of rewards.

His present conduct forms a striking contrast with the character which he at first assumed. He then appeared as the professed enemy of the Franks. This antipathy impelled him to issue, among others, the severe edict, prohibiting all Franks, (or Christians), and Jews, from wearing the Turkish *costume*,

and commanding them to dress in clothes after the French fashion. This ordinance was extremely mortifying to them, as it exposed them to the contempt and derision of the Turks, throughout all Constantinople.

On the contrary, Selim now treats the Franks, and particularly those resident at Constantinople, with great indulgence and humanity. On this subject, anecdotes are related concerning him, for which a parallel would be sought in vain, in the history of his ancestors. The sultans have, for example, considered it as beneath them to look at a Frank, as they rode past him. They either looked down, or turned their faces another way, with contempt. Sultan Selim, however, is said, when riding in procession and in solemn pomp to the Dschamie, to have often looked with an air of benignity at the Franks standing by the way-side, and even to have sometimes bowed to them, when they respectively uncovered their heads, which, being against the custom of the east, might, on the contrary, have drawn upon them a reprimand.

It is well known, that he has had many interviews with Franks at Dolma Bachdscheh, and that he has verbally communicated his pleasure and his orders to those whom he has taken into his service. On certain days in the week, he has even caused the ladies and gentlemen belonging to the French families settled at Pera and Galata, to assemble and dance in a saloon in his seraglio; and he generally watched them, while engaged in this amusement, through a lattice. On such occasions one of the company, by his desire, plays on a small organ, his favourite tune, the well-known *Marlborough s'en va-t-en guerre*, and the others accompany the music with their voices. The celebrated lullaby-song of the late dauphin, formerly sung all over Europe, from the Seine to the Oby, and now almost forgotten, has at length completed its tour of the world, having penetrated to Constantinople. It has there maintained its ground longer than any where else; for, as it pleased the sultan, it became almost a national air, and you may still hear it sung by many a Tschaikschu; but somewhat mutilated, it is true, and only to be recognised from the beginning of the tune.

The following true anecdote evinces the politeness of the emperor towards the Franks. One fine summer's day, many of the Frankish families resident at Constantinople, had assembled at Buyukdere, on some festive occasion. The fineness of the weather, or perhaps curiosity to see so many Franks together, likewise enticed the grand signior from his water-party to the same place. The sky was suddenly overcast, and a heavy shower of rain fell, just when all the company were walking in an extensive meadow. The ladies who were provided with umbrellas, put them up; but as the grand signior alone had the privilege of employing this kind of defence, either against

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sun or rain, and no person is allowed to use it in his presence, they immediately let down their umbrellas, whilst the sultan passed by them, on his return to his gondola. No sooner did he perceive this mark of attention, than he sent a message, granting them permission to make use of their umbrellas, even in his presence.

The emperor frequently goes about in the capital, *incognito*, and in various disguises. Sometimes he wears a green turban and an Albanian dress, or an Arnaut cap, and wide red cloak, with gold clasps, after the manner of the Bosniaks. On these occasions he is generally attended by no more than four persons, all dressed in the same manner as himself, so as not to be distinguished. One of these attendants is the executioner, who always follows the grand signior, in all his excursions, both on horseback and on foot. It is well known, that for any instance of speedy justice, there is none to call him to account, nor need he even assign a cause. This privilege the sultans have always made use of, and so did Selim in the first years of his reign. Now, however, he forms an honourable exception in the exercise of this barbarous prerogative; conformably to custom, he still retains the terrific attendant, but without calling for his professional services. In these excursions, he often visits the schools, the barracks, the coffee-houses, the academical institutions, and the guard-houses; and he not unfrequently distributes, with his own hand, gratuities among those who have either obtained his approbation, or whom he wishes to encourage.

According to the laws of the Turkish empire, every male must learn some business, and from this, the sultans themselves are not exempted. Selim learned the art of painting on muslin, and, during his reign, it has come so much into vogue in the seraglio, that a great number of sophas and divans, in the interior of the palace, are now covered with this kind of painted muslins.

The superior understanding of his mother, the Sultana Valide, gave her a great influence over the emperor. She had formerly been the slave of a mussulman, named Velizade, and was brought up with Murad Bey, who since acquired such celebrity as a chief of the mamelukes, and who was likewise purchased in early youth by the same master. Arriving in the seraglio in the very flower of youthful beauty, and a proficient in all the little arts that are practised in the haram, she was fortunate enough to gain the favour of Sultan Mustapha, and to become the mother of a prince of the race of the Osmanides. The affection of the sultanas for their children, whom they suckle themselves, is almost always peculiarly strong in the seraglio; and the attachment of the latter to the mother, is not less remarkable. The sultana mothers have, therefore, from a

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remote period, enjoyed the privilege of acting important parts at the Ottoman court.

Sultan Selim cherished the highest degree of veneration and gratitude for her who gave him life. The Sultana Valide (who died in October, 1805, in her 73d year) always manifested a particular kindness and regard for the French, and even during their invasion of Egypt, she never abandoned their cause. France and the Porte are now again intimately connected, and the former has declared itself the protector and defender of the Turkish empire.

Sultan Selim has three sisters, daughters of Sultan Mustapha, but by a different mother. They are all living. The eldest, who has the title of schack sultana, or imperial princess, is married to Nuhandschi Mustapha, formerly pacha of Salonichi. As he is not a man of much ambition, and his character excites no suspicion in the court, he is suffered to live peaceably with his wife, in a palace contiguous to the suburb of Eyrub. As far as respects him, a custom that no pacha, whether in office or not, shall reside in the capital, unless he occupies a place in the divan, or fills some of the high offices of state, has been dispensed with. The second sister, known by the name of Beihram Sultana, is the widow of Selikdar Mustapha Pacha, formerly kai-makan, or deputy of the grand vizir, who died pacha of Bosnia. The third is called Hedischa Sultana, and is the widow of Seid Achmed Pacha, who died pacha of Wan, on the frontiers of Persia.

Sultan Selim has, as yet, no issue; and such is his neglect of the women of the haram, that it is scarcely expected that he will ever become a father. The heirs apparent to the throne are his first cousins, Sultan Mustapha, and Sultan Mahmud, sons of the Sultan Abdul Hamid, the elder of whom is twenty-seven, and the younger twenty-two years of age. Both of them are very kindly treated by the present grand signior, out of gratitude for the kindness he himself experienced from their father, his uncle. Nevertheless, they are, according to custom, obliged to live secluded from all society, in the inmost recesses of the great seraglio; and they are permitted, but very rarely, to leave their quarter, in order to kiss the hand of the reigning sovereign. With no other companions than women doomed to sterility, and no other attendants than black eunuchs, are these princes obliged to pass their lives.

Such are the successors of the celebrated Ottoman heroes of past ages; of those mighty and warlike sultans, who, bred in camps, struck terror into all Christendom. Imbued only with the precepts of the koran, and the sentiment of hatred to the Christians; without the least knowledge of the world, from which they are totally excluded; ignorant alike of the business of war, and the important duties imposed on the sovereign of

so immense an empire; one of these princes will, after Selim's death, ascend the Ottoman throne, unless perhaps Selim himself be destined to conclude the line of the 27 monarchs of the race of Osman.

THE RING,

A Moral Tale.

By the Authoress of the Occasional Essays.

(Continued from Page 369.)

"THE beauteous form and amiable manners of a young Portuguese, then on a visit with a family to England, merely to see the country, first taught him what it was to be a man. This lady was descended from a family of rank and opulence. In Merit's bosom, love glowed with ardour; but HONOUR, ruled with sceptered sway, dreading to be suspected of a mean, mercenary design upon her fortune, he bridled his tongue, though he could not curb his feelings; every look and action spoke a passion that burned with fervour, and for her alone; nor was the lady insensible to his worth. But in endeavouring to suppress the sentiment, the barriers of prudence were thrown down, the flame involuntarily burst forth, and, oh! estacy, the pure impulse, the warm, generous passion, the refined sentiment of exalted, genuine love (casting a look of indescribable tenderness on Maria, raising a blush on her dimpled cheek of crimson hue) met a reciprocal return. Merit was a man of too much honour to propose any step repugnant to female delicacy; a private meeting was never hinted at, but an intercourse of letters took place. The lady would take no step inconsistent with her duty, by giving her hand without the entire approbation of her father, who fondly loved her, and in her felicity his sole happiness consisted. That he was far from being tainted with that pride, so natural to his countrymen, and might be brought to consent to the union, provided the difference of religion could be accommodated; but certain she was, he would never consent to her marrying any man, however high in point of rank, unless a *true catholic*, and bid him seriously reflect, if he could renounce his faith. This was touching on a tender string; to renounce his faith! If such was the bar, it was indeed insurmountable—the very idea made him shudder. Whilst he was considering how and in what manner to answer this important letter, a short note was hastily delivered to him, apparently written in great haste, and with a pencil:

"Our correspondence is discovered. I am this moment to be hurried out of town, and to embark, with all expedition, for Lisbon. Make yourself happy 'till you can hear from me; if I cannot be your's, I pledge myself, by the holy virgin! never to be the wife of another.

"You may readily conceive what effect such a note produced on the mind of Merit; the consoling hand of friendship alone, saved him from madness. Weeks, months elapsed, without any tidings of the lovely Portuguese; he fancied her shut up in a convent, and, no longer able to bear his grief and anxiety, determined on following her to Lisbon, where he safely arrived. I shall not intrude on your patience the many difficulties he encountered before he obtained an interview with his beloved mistress, who had written him several letters, and by not receiving any answer found she had been betrayed. A scheme was at last set on foot to get him introduced to her father, who became quite enamoured with the young Englishman, when a circumstance happened that greatly facilitated the design. The old gentleman, mistaken for another, was attacked one dark night by bravoes in the street, no uncommon case in that country; it was Merit's good fortune to rescue him, almost at the expence of life, for he received a wound, which, at first, it was feared would prove mortal. Gratitude for his brave deliverer would not permit him to resign him to any care but his own, and an apartment was assigned to him in his house. Grief and distraction for the fate of her lover drew from his daughter the whole secret, that he was not the gentleman whose name he had assumed, but the very identical Mr. Merit, who had, so deservedly, gained her affections in England, a correspondence with whom he had most cruelly interrupted, and driven her to the brink of despair! whose unalterable love for her had brought him to Lisbon, and whose life had now fallen a sacrifice in a father's defence. Excess of grief brought on a violent fever, attended with a high delirium, in which the young lady was incessantly raving that her murdered lover's life was despaired of; the thought of losing her was worse than death, to a father who doated on her; and to marry her to a heretic, harrowed up his very soul. In short the old gentleman was nearly in a state of distraction himself; but something must be done, as the physician assured him, that unless her mind was set at ease, she could not possibly recover. He therefore consented to the match, leaving it to the physician, who was a particular friend, to watch the proper time of returning reason to communicate his intentions, and to entreat her to live for his sake, and Merit's, whom he should henceforth consider as a son.

"As to Merit, he intended to be the harbinger of the good news himself, as soon as his daughter was pronounced out of

danger, for that gentleman was entirely ignorant of the state of his mistress's health; this was carefully concealed, to accelerate his recovery, and an excuse made for her not visiting him as a point of etiquette, which he was informed the ladies strictly adhered to in that country. The physician proceeded with infinite caution, fearing the effects of over-joy might prove fatal, and beginning with informing her that Merit's wound began to wear a favourable appearance, (which was really the case), and, by degrees, fully informed her, a union with that gentleman would be acceded to on a recovery of health. She pressed his hand, called down blessings from Heaven on her dear father, and burst out into a copious flood of tears, which the physician did not think it prudent to check. The lady began to recover rapidly, the gentleman but slowly, and as he was entirely ignorant of the past circumstances, or the young lady's avowal of their mutual affection, it was thought better to postpone the knowledge of his good fortune, 'till the lady was so far convalescent as to visit him, and inform him of it herself. More particulars are unnecessary as a prelude to the marriage, more than some steps were taken to prevail with the intended bridegroom to come over to the Romish church, but without success; however he at last consented that issue, whether male or female, should be brought up in the religion of the country.

"They were united, and Mr. and Mrs. Merit, happy in each other's affection, lived a life of felicity for near twenty years; but the latter never knew the happiness of being a *mother*; that blessing was denied them.

(To be continued.)

Lord Cochrane's Addreſs to the Electors of Westminster, May 6, 1807.

WHEN his lordship came forward on the hustings, he was received with loud acclamations. To one of the populace, who seemed anxious to interrupt him, his lordship observed, "My good fellow, wait 'till you know me, and you'll be the best friend I have here!" His lordship then jumped out from the hustings, and standing forward upon the narrow wooden bar, which separates the constables from the populace, addressed them in the following terms: "Gentlemen, all I want is a fair hearing.—*(loud applause)* I don't want you to buy a pig in a poke—*(here the loud laughter and huzzas of the populace interrupted him for a few minutes)* If you don't like me when you have heard me, why then reject me at once. Gentlemen, had I not been convinced that you were independent

men, I would not have the impudence to offer myself before you.

"Gentlemen, I stand upon the footing of perfect independence, unconnected with any person whatever. Gentlemen, I'll tell you what I mean by the word independence—No man can be independent who is brought forward by any party, to vote for or against any particular set of men, without reference to measures. I say measures, and not men, ought to be supported. Gentlemen, I am no puppet, set up to dance before you here by the lords of the treasury, as you have too often seen. *(Loud huzzas).* I am the friend of my country, and its constitution. I am not even personally acquainted with a single one of his majesty's present ministers, and I only know a very few of the late administration.

"You have been told, gentlemen, that a naval man is an improper candidate: but did they know any thing about the service who told you so?—They should have told you of other persons who are unfit for being members of parliament, as well as naval officers. Is a puppy who delights to drive his curricle and horses over the necks of the people, a fit candidate to represent you in parliament?—*A loud cry of no brewers*—[This alludes to Mr. Elliott, who is another candidate for Westminster, and by trade a brewer.] *No dancing puppies—No men that won't fight!*—Gentlemen, is a fellow a proper candidate to represent you, who squares his mouth to tickle the ears of his horse—a fellow who, with the brains of an ass, delights to flourish the guts of a beast round the head of a brute, in order to please the ladies in Bond-street? *(Loud laughter and huzzas, which lasted for several minutes.)* Is such a creature fit to be a legislator, gentlemen? No! I'll be d—d if he is—*(Loud cheers.)*

"Now, gentlemen, I'll tell you what my pretensions are; and, as it rains very hard, I will not detain you long, although I could speak two hours; and I think you begin to like to hear me. *(Loud applauses)*—Gentlemen, I am not entitled to speak of my services myself, but I mean to pledge my past conduct and character as a security for the performance of my promises.

"Gentlemen, I am an enemy to plunder, peculation, corruption, tyranny, and oppression, wherever it is to be found. I have been a long time kept at a distance from the seat of government in the service of my country; and did not know the scenes of corruption that were going on at home: but I am acquainted from history, with what the constitution was, in times of purity, and I shall do my endeavours to restore it to that enviable state. Gentlemen, I know that plunder and terrible abuses prevail in every department; and it is not in the power of members of parliament, who have left the service for many years,

years, to know practically, as I do, the abuses in the naval department of late years.

"Gentlemen, it is the same in the military service as it is at home: when an honest man is put at the head of affairs, all goes on pretty smoothly and fairly; but when a new commander in chief is appointed, of a different character, every thing falls back into its old state of plunder and corruption. One day there is oppression and tyranny exercised, and the next day quite a contrary system is adopted.

"I have now a few words to say about members of parliament. Gentlemen, you have heard much about reform in parliament; but I'll tell you what will knock that business on the head at once. I am an enemy to all sinecure placemen and pensioners, and I wish that the bribery and corruption oath, which is administered to the candidates at an election, was also administered to every member of parliament before he was allowed to vote on any question. Do you think, gentlemen, that any member of the house of commons would perjure himself, and vote with the minister to obtain a dirty pension?—*(A loud cry of 'All, all, all!')* That may be, gentlemen, but I declare, upon my honour, and I take God to witness, that I am not one of that kind; and that I will be the first, if I am returned to parliament, to point out and hold up to the public the man whom I suspect to be thus perjured. *(Loud huzzas.)* Now, gentlemen, as a great deal has been said about the king dismissing his servants, I think I have a right to say something about it too! *(Loud laughter.)* Do you think that ministers would go to dismiss themselves from their fine fat situations? If the king has not a right to dismiss his servants, who the devil has? Are we to wait 'till they dismiss themselves? *(Loud laughter.)* Now, gentlemen, I won't detain you any longer. I think I have said enough to convince you that I come here on perfectly independent principles. I declare to God I am supported by no party and no minister whatever, and I pledge myself to hunt down plunder, peculation, corruption, bribery, sinecure placemen and pensioners, wherever I can find them. *(Loud and repeated huzzas.)* And if his majesty's present ministers do not act upon a system of economy and opposition to corruption and peculation, I hope his majesty will have spirit enough once more to dismiss them from his presence with the disgrace they will deserve."

His lordship then retired, amid loud and reiterated shouts of applause.

Method of Washing White Silk Patent Lace.

FOLD up the piece to the length of about a quarter of a yard, and stitch it up lightly together with a needle and

thread; anoint the surface of the piece with a little sweet oil upon the end of a feather, and boil it one hour in strong soap and water. When taken out and dried, it will have a snowy whiteness, superior to its original colour.

Lord Grenville's Letter to the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge.

THIS society having stated in an advertisement that the late bill for the relief of catholic officers, was "an innovation hostile to the established church," Lord Grenville, who is a member of it, addressed the following letter to the secretary.

SIR, *Downing-street, May 2d*, 1807.

"The society for promoting Christian knowledge, of which I am a member, has thought fit to publish, during a general election, a resolution declaratory of its opinion respecting a political measure recently submitted to parliament.

That measure, brought forward for purposes of peace, union, and public security, by men who yield to none of their fellow-subjects in loyalty to their sovereign, and attachment to the civil and religious constitution of their country, is there stigmatized as hostile to the established church and ecclesiastical constitution of the realm, and as subversive of those principles which placed his majesty's family on the British throne.

It is natural for those whose characters are thus aspersed, to inquire by what right any persons have taken upon themselves, in the name of such a society, to give countenance and currency to an injurious and groundless calumny, fabricated for the watch-word of a party, and calculated only to excite and to uphold a popular clamour.

The society was instituted, as its annual publications declare, for "the increase of the knowledge and practice of our holy religion," by the support of charity schools, and by the distribution of Bibles, Prayer-books, and religious tracts. Those who have directed the present proceeding can best explain in what manner Christian knowledge, or Christian practice, will be increased by promoting religious animosities and civil discord, by stirring up the blind prejudices and ungovernable passions of the ignorant, and by circulating amongst our fellow-subjects, instead of the word of truth and charity, the libellous and inflammatory calumnies of electioneering contests and party violence.

As a member of the society, solicitous for the promotion of its genuine objects, I desire to enter my dissent to a resolution purporting to express its unanimous opinion. I object to the propriety

propriety of its taking part at all in the political divisions of the country. I object to its labouring to extend and to prolong those divisions, with respect to a measure publicly withdrawn, and of which there is consequently no longer any question. But most of all I object to the truth, and may I not add, to the decency of a censure, which, if it were founded either in justice or in reason, would apply equally to almost every description of public men, and would even implicate all those authorities which are the most entitled to our respect and reverence.

If to permit the king's subjects of all persuasions to serve him in his army, be "an unconstitutional innovation," with whom, and when, did it originate? It was first made the law in Ireland fourteen years ago, at the express recommendation of the crown, delivered from the throne by one of his majesty's present ministers, then lord lieutenant of that kingdom.

If the adoption of a similar law in Great Britain would be "an act of hostility to the established church," to whom shall that hostility be ascribed? To those who have now proposed, or to those who long ago engaged for that concession? To the framers of Lord Howic's bill, or to those members and supporters of the present government, who, in the year 1793, gave and authorized that promise to the catholics of Ireland?

If the employment of catholic officers and catholic soldiers in the general service of the empire; if the permitting them to hold and exercise, at his majesty's discretion, all military commissions, the rank and station of a general not excepted; if the relieving them in this respect from all penalties and disabilities on account of their religious persuasion—if these things be matter of just alarm "to the ecclesiastical constitution of this country," when was the moment for that alarm? In the year 1804 all this, and more than this, was done in an act proposed by Mr. Pitt, with the concurrence of his colleagues, now in administration, passed by the British parliament, and sanctioned by his majesty's royal assent. That act legalized a long list of military commissions, antecedently granted by his majesty with the advice of the same ministers; and it enabled his majesty prospectively to grant at his discretion all military commissions whatever to catholics, not indeed to British or Irish catholics, but to foreign catholics; to men who owe his majesty no allegiance, and who are not even required to disclaim those tenets which all our fellow-subjects of that persuasion have solemnly abjured.

What ground of difference will then remain to justify these outrageous calumnies against the late proposal? Is it that men were permitted to aspire to the rewards and honours of a profession, to the toils and dangers of which the legislature of the country had long since invited them? Is it that the same indulgences which had been promised and granted to catholics

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by others, were not withheld by us from protestant dissenters? Or is it, lastly, that we judged our own countrymen and fellow-subjects entitled, under his majesty's discretion, to the same confidence and favour which parliament had so recently extended to foreigners of all nations and all descriptions?

And let me further ask, if these concessions, all, or any of them, are "subversive of the principles which placed his majesty's illustrious house upon the throne," what is to be said of the far more extensive indulgences proposed in 1801, by that great minister, now no more, whose name I have already mentioned? Were his principles also subversive of the established church, and of the civil constitution of the monarchy? And if he too must be involved in this undiscriminating and injurious censure, what condemnation will not those men deserve, who in the very moment of pretended danger have advised his majesty to call to his present councils the authors, the partizans, and the supporters of Mr. Pitt's plan; a plan including all that has been now proposed, and extending very far beyond our measure?

On the expediency of these measures statesmen may differ. To stigmatize them as hostile to our establishments or dangerous to our constitution, is to libel both the throne and the parliament, to calumniate the existing laws, and to impute to the most considerable public characters of our age, both the living and the dead, principles and purposes disclaimed by themselves, and contradicted by the whole tenour of their lives. It is for the society to consider whether such a conduct be consonant to the character which it befits them to maintain, or in any manner conducive to the objects of a charitable and a religious institution.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

GRENVILLE.

The Rev. G. Gaskin, D. D. Secretary to the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge.

Extract of the Act referred to in the foregoing Letter, entitled, "An Act for enabling Subjects of Foreign States to enlist as Soldiers in his Majesty's Service, and for enabling his Majesty to grant Commissions to Subjects of Foreign States to serve as Officers or as Engineers, under certain Restrictions; and to indemnify all Persons who may have advised his Majesty to enlist any such Soldiers, or grant any such Commissions as aforesaid." [14*th July*, 1804.]

WHEREAS it hath been deemed expedient by his majesty, in order to provide in the speediest manner for the better defence and greater security of the united kingdom, in the present important juncture of affairs, to permit certain foreigners,

now

now in Great Britain, to enlist as soldiers into his majesty's service, and for the better disciplining of such soldiers, to form them into regiments, battalions, or corps, and to grant commissions or letters of service therein, to certain foreign officers acquainted with their manners and language; and it may be expedient, during the continuance of the present war, to augment such regiments, battalions, or corps, and to form other regiments, battalions, or corps, and to enlist as soldiers to serve therein respectively such other foreigners as shall be willing to enlist themselves in his majesty's service; and also to enable his majesty to grant commissions or letters of service to foreign officers therein; and it is proper, that all persons who shall or may have advised his majesty to enlist such soldiers, and to grant such commissions or letters of service as aforesaid, should be indemnified; and it is necessary that quarters should be provided for such regiments, battalions, or corps, during their continuance in any part of the united kingdom: be it therefore enacted by the king's most excellent majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the lords spiritual and temporal, and commons, in this present parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that all such foreign soldiers as have been already enlisted into his majesty's service, and formed into regiments, battalions, or corps, as aforesaid, shall be deemed and taken to have been and to be legally and effectually enlisted and formed; and all such commissions or letters of service as have been already granted by his majesty to any foreign officers in such regiments, battalions, or corps, shall be deemed and taken to have been and to be legally and effectually granted, and shall remain and continue in force in like manner in all respects as if such soldiers had been enlisted and formed, and such commissions or letters of service had been granted, after the passing and under the provisions of this act; and all and every persons or person who shall or may have advised his majesty to enlist such soldiers, and to grant such commissions or letters of service as aforesaid, shall be, and they and he are or is hereby fully and effectually indemnified; any law or statute to the contrary notwithstanding.

And be it further enacted, that it shall be lawful for such persons, subjects of any foreign states, as shall be willing to serve his majesty, to enlist as soldiers, and to accept commissions or letters of service, to serve as officers or engineers, from his majesty, his heirs and successors, or from any persons duly authorized by his majesty to grant such commissions or letters of service (which commissions and letters of service it shall be lawful for his majesty, or for any persons duly authorized in that behalf as aforesaid, to grant:) provided always, that no such person as aforesaid, shall be liable to any pain, penalty, or forfeiture whatever, for having accepted any such commission,

or enlisted as a soldier in any such regiments, battalions, or corps as aforesaid, by reason of his having professed the popish religion, and not having declared the same at the time of his accepting such commission or enlisting.

Account of the surprising Power of the Sword Fish.

[From Barrow's Voyage to Cochin China.]

THERE are instances, still more extraordinary than the salmon-leap, of the astonishing power which the muscles of fishes are capable of exerting; so very extraordinary indeed, that were they not authenticated in such a manner as not to leave the possibility of a doubt, they would certainly be considered as the inventions of voyagers. Ships' sides of thick oak plank have been completely perforated by the snout of the sword-fish, not of the common species the *xiphias gladius*, of which we struck one at the entrance of Porta-Praya bay, but another, or at least a variety, of greater dimensions, being sometimes from 20 to 30 feet in length, and distinguished by a large spotted black fin, and by the rounded extremity of the snout or bony process. Van Schouten, of Horne, in his very entertaining voyage round the world, about the beginning of the 17th century, states that "a great fish, or a sea-monster, having a horn like a common elephant's tooth, not hollow but full, struck the ship with such great strength that it entered into three planks of the ship, two of green and one of oaken wood, and into a rib, where it turned upward to their great good fortune." In the year 1801, a Danish ship came into the Cape of Good Hope, in consequence of springing a leak off the Brazil coast. On examination it was found that she had been struck by a sword-fish, the snout of which had penetrated the bottom, where it still remained, having snapt close to the plank on the exterior side of the vessel. In the same year a small English ship came into Table Bay, having received, in the Southern Atlantic, a stroke from a sword-fish, which buried part of the bony snout so deep in the stern-post as to impede the action of the rudder. These two facts consist with my own knowledge, which, together with the piece of plank from the bottom of an East-Indiaman, now in the British Museum, transfixed by the sword of this fish, may satisfy the doubts of the most sceptical on a subject which was known to the ancients perhaps more than 2000 years ago, as it is mentioned by Pliny to be a fact indisputably established long before his time.

An ANECDOTE.

SOME years ago a person requested permission of the bishop of Salisbury to fly from the top of the spire of that cathedral. The bishop, anxious for his spiritual safety, told him he was welcome to fly *to* the church, but he would encourage no man to fly *from* it.

AFFECTING REFLECTIONS.

By the late Mr. Cumberland.

IT was no common recommendation to a place of residence, where our summer society could boast of visitors so respectable as the Lord Chief Justice Mansfield, the ex-premier Lord North, the duke of Leeds, the Lord Primate Robinson, the Lord Chancellor Rosslyn, Archbishop Moore, Bishop Moss, and others, who, like them, have paid the debt of nature, and are now no more.

I must confess, when these, and some less illustrious, but more near and dearer to my heart, were struck down, it seemed to me as if the place had lost its sunshine, and our walks, so often paced by their steps, had been strewed with their tombs. Within the period of my residence at Tunbridge Wells I have felt the loss of many friends: I have followed Lord Sackville to his vault at Withyham, my lamented wife to her grave in the church of Frant, and there also I caused to be deposited the remains of William Badcock, esq. the husband of my second daughter Sophia, and father of five children, awarded to my care by chancery, and looking up to me for the education, that is to decide upon their future destinies—My God! can I presume to hope that thou wilt give me life to execute this sacred trust, and train them in the way, poor innocents, wherein they ought to go—? Three of these five fatherless relicts are boys, and as I distributed my four sons between the fleet and army, even so, if my life is spared, I meditate to deal with these grandsons, who seem by nature endowed with vigour both of body and of spirit for their destination. The eldest, a boy of brilliant parts, has now completed more than half his training-time, and is serving in his majesty's frigate La Loire, under the command of Captain Maitland: that gallant and distinguished officer reports in terms of my young charge, that inspire me with the warmest hopes of his well-doing; and as I think I can foresee that we shall have to fight for our altars and our hearths before the present generation shall pass off, I should be sorry at my soul to suppose that any one of my posterity, over whom I have controul, were not in train to take his part in that decisive day, whenever it shall come.

Answer, by H. Ellis, of Exeter, to J. S.'s Charade, inserted February 16.

YOUR charade, Sir, doth sure unfold,
SHEBAT, a Jewish month of old.

*** Similar answers have also been received from Rusticus, of Awliscombe; G. Spry, of Egg Buckland; J. Whitnell, of Street; J. C. Cooke, of Exeter; W. D. of Bristol; J. A. Dyer, of Taunton; J. Medland, of St. Budeaux; J. Woodman, of North Curry; H. Easter, and J. Lewis, of Poole; Loosemore, and J. Joyce, of Tiverton; J. Ryan, of Stonehouse; Alexander, of Taunton; and W. Cave, of Pitney.

Answer, by J. Ryan, Stonehouse, to Tyro's Anagram, inserted February 23.

YOUR lines, dear Sir, if I judge right,
Will bring a NUTMEG plain to sight.

*** Similar answers have been received from H. Easter, and J. Lewis, of Poole; J. Stoneman, and H. Ellis, of Exeter; J. A. Dyer, and Alexander, of Taunton; J. Woodman, of North Curry; F. Arden, of South Petherton; W. D. Champion, of Bridgewater; W. Cave, of Pitney; a serjeant of the Broadhembury volunteers; Rusticus, of Awliscombe; Loosemore, and J. Joyce, of Tiverton; W. D. of Bristol; William Varcoe, of Mevagissey; W. H. H. of Totnes; J. Medland, of St. Budeaux; G. Spry, of Egg Buckland; and P. Codd, of Plymouth.

A CHARADE, *by R. Trewavas,*

MY first oft clasps the stately oak on high;
My arched next the rolling floods defy;
Connect these parts, a place you'll view,
Ye honour'd bards of fame, adieu!

A REBUS, *by W. Terdinnick, of St. Budeaux.*

A Consonant must first be found;
And unto it a vowel join'd;
Thirdly, a game at cards select;
And then a tree you must detect;
The next a spicy plant declare,
And then my rebus will appear:
The initials found, and joined right,
A precious stone will bring to sight.

A CHARADE, *by T. Rutger, of Clowance.*

THE man on humble measures bent,
Nor seeks for wealth his joys t' increase;
Whilst o'er his cottage reigns content,
Calmly enjoys my first in peace.

While from my next, that yields a part
Pure as the gentle spring that flows,
He claims an open, gen'rous heart,
The stings of conscience never knows.

And when to life he bids my whole,
Resign'd, in peace he sinks to rest,
In hopes that his immortal soul,
May soon be number'd with the blest.

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

TO MY SUNDAY SCHOLARS, ON PARTING.

FAREWELL my tender charge! I bid adieu
To the most pleasing task of teaching you:
But tho' I leave you, God is still your friend;
On whom, for all supplies, you may depend.
His gracious spirit can instruct you still,
And open to your reason all his will.
On him depend, he never will forsake
The soul that seeks him for a Saviour's sake.
That Saviour you've been taught to know and fear,
And by his word your daily course to steer.
O! treasure all his precepts in your mind:
As from a father who is good and kind.
Be not rebellious; harden not your heart,
Lest in his promises you share no part.
Come out from all the vain, ungodly world,
Who into utter darkness will be hurl'd.
Be not asham'd of Jesus, or his name,
But for his cause rejoice to suffer shame.
This did the patriarchs, and the saints of old:
Those whom the world unworthy was to hold.
Be sure to venerate God's holy day,
Nor vainly pass the sacred hours away.
Keep close to ordinances, means of grace,
And let each sabbath see you in your place.
Shun bad companions, as a deadly pest,
Whose mouths profane make sacred things a jest.
Let prayer and praise your youthful lips employ,
And still remember, God is ever nigh;
He sees your heart, knows every secret there,
And calls himself "the God who answers prayer."
Fear none but HIM who kills and makes alive,
And you will soon to heavenly bliss arrive.
Time passes swiftly, dubious is its stay,
And Jesus says, that we "should watch and pray."
May you and I, my dears, attend the call:
For what is said to *one* is said to *all*.

Lord grant thy grace, that we may all be meet
To join the choir who worship at thy feet!
Wash'd in thy blood! assist the sacred throng,
And join with Moses the angelic song
Farewell! Farewell! I bid you all adieu!
Remember *me*. I will remember *you*.

MARY JONES.

Wincanton, April 5, 1807.

LINES WRITTEN *on a* WINDOW *at an* INN.

HERE too thy name, sweet maid! shall stand,
And fairest in the list be found,

Where

Where many an artless traveller's hand
His fair-one's praises scrawls around.

Afresh at every stage he grieves,
Which bears him further from her arms,
And fondly still behind him leaves
Some frail memorial of her charms.

So pines and moans the stricken hart,
And as he flies betrays his wound;
Drags to the shades a rankling dart,
And stains with crimson drops the ground.

Stranger! to this dear name be kind,
While far her lover roves forlorn;
Pity the anguish of his mind,
From the soft smile of beauty torn.

So to thy destin'd journey's end,
Be hope companion of thy way,
And there thy mistress or thy friend,
With truth unchang'd, thy cares repay.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

SUN-RISE: A SONNET.

BEHOLD yon east begins to glow
With Sol's refulgent ray,
That tips the cloud-capp'd mountain's brow,
And makes the earth look gay.

The leaves distil ambrosial dew,
Now morn ascends the skies;
And liquid gems appear in view
As the bright beams arise.

The songsters thro' the leafy grove,
Hail the young day with notes of love,
And each responsive sings;
While all the glad creation raise
Grateful, symphonious songs of praise,
When Phœbus' reign begins.

Bristol. W. C.

FADED BEAUTY.

FADED Delia moves compassion,
But no longer can subdue;
Now her face is out of fashion,
She must take her turn and sue.

All her airs, so long affected,
Might in blooming youth be borne;
But in age, if not corrected,
Move our pity, or our scorn.

Wealth nor titles can support ye,
Wretched Delia, in decay;
'Tis allow'd to nymphs past forty
To look on, but not to play.

If your itch be past reclaiming,
So receive your due delight;
As old bullies, broke by gaming,
Still take pleasure in the fight.